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TWIXT LIZARD AND BIRD.

The Hoatzin a Curious Animal and an Important Link in Evolution of the Fowl.

One of the most interesting birds known to science is the hoatzin, say Jerrard Grant Allen and Leonard Buttress, in an article on "Bird Babies," in Pearson's. Indigenous to South America, this precocious youngster has made itself famous by the arboreal feats which it performs while yet at a very tender age. On the "thumb" and "forefinger" of the young hoatzin's wing appear tiny claws, and armed with these, the tiny creature crawls out of its nest and clammers about the boughs of trees, using them as hands, by means of which it hooks itself along. The progress, indeed, exactly corresponds to the early pedestrian efforts of the human baby, whose first perambulations are made with the assistance of friendly chairs and other furniture. These little claws of the hoatzin are used only in infancy, dropping off as soon as the power of flight has been attained. The chief interest of the species, however, attaches to the fact that it is one of the most

The House of Arabella

By MAURICE SMILEY

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"Bella! You Arabella! What the—girl! Where is she, any way?" The tones were hard and bitter, and the sharp voice rose to a fury. "Here I am, auntie," said a childish voice. "I was peeling potatoes for dinner out on the porch, where it is warmer." "Oh, here you are, auntie," smiled the girl, disapprovingly. "You didn't hurt yourself hurrying?" Her anger, however, was somewhat mollified when she saw the girl had been doing something useful. "It's a wonder," she added, spitefully, "you wasn't moonin' over some boy or otherer thinkin' about Joe Vincent. Joe Vincent, indeed!" she snuffed, scornfully. "Much good it'll do you to moon up at him, when you know he is snoot on Evaline." A hot blush rose in the girl's brow at the words, and she clenched her hands as she set the dish down on the porch and seated herself to complete her task. Mrs. Martin was hard by nature and years of struggling with poverty and hard luck on a New England farm had soured that little of the milk of human kindness there ever was in her make-up. She loved her own daughters after her own fashion, and all her hardness seemed stored up against her dead sister's child. Who knows what may slumber at the bottom of a woman's heart? From the day her sister had married handsome Jim Randall, who disappeared eight years later, leaving her with a boy of seven, the sisters never spoke to each other. A daughter was born six months after the father's disappearance, and then came ten years of bitter struggle, with want, before the mother gave up, worn out. The boy had gone west, and the girl, now fifteen, was just saved from the almshouse by the family pride of Mrs. Martin. But often and often had Bella thought that it would have been better for her if she had gone to the poorhouse, where she would at least have been treated more kindly. She was thinking something of this now, and the more pleasing thought came into her mind for a blush crept slowly over her face. It must have been Joe Vincent that brought it there, for Joe Vincent was about all the happiness there was in her life. He was only 19—but he was everything else. Some day, perhaps—but that was far ahead. "You won't be staying here always," Bella had said to her just the other day. "I'm studying law, just now, and some day I'll have an office—some—"

UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE.

Millionaire Wanted Cash After Banking Hours—Time Locks Wouldn't Yield to Even His Credit.

A well known millionaire hastily entered a few days ago the bank where he carried a large deposit, says the New York Evening Post. He had left his pocketbook home and wanted cash. The bank was sorry, but could not accommodate him. It was past four o'clock, the vaults were closed and the executive staff had gone home. The subordinate officers held a quick council, and one of them thus described the result: "We piled up every cent we had in our clothes, then we went through the clerks and had every man in the establishment turn his pockets inside out. The customer was many times a millionaire, and could secure from us any day whatever sum he needed. But the time locks were set, and the best we could do was \$50 in cash. He stuffed the roll in his pocket and hurriedly went on his way. We did not even ask for a memorandum showing that he detected details, and that a subsequent word with his secretary was all that would be needed to reimburse the bank." The incident may be taken as illustrating, first, the limit which is drawn in the control of banks by great financiers, of which so much has been lately heard; second, the advisability of presenting checks before three p. m.; and third, the absorbing power of great wealth and credit over the surplus cash of small capitalists.

SIMPPLICITY OF THE POPE.

Once Prepared Coffee for a Guest with His Own Hands Assisted by a Count.

One morning early, writes William J. D. Cramer, concerning the new pope, in the Century, a friend of mine, an Venetian nobleman, confided to me: "My father had said mass and settled down to work. His sisters had gone out to mass, or for the hundredth marriage, which they were doing at the Rialto on August 1, 1903, the day of wonders in their simple life. "Has the count taken coffee?" asked the bishop. "Well, to tell the truth, no, because the business was urgent, and I have come straight from the railway station," the guest replied. No excuse availed, and Mgr. Sarto rose and went into the kitchen. So the bishop of dual Mantua and his guest might have been seen talking and laughing, while monsignor coaxed the charcoal with a black kitchen fan, the coffee fumed in a tin pot on the range, and the count got out cups and saucers, in order to save his distinguished host what mental service he could. Then they had coffee together at the kitchen table.

CITIZENSHIP OF INDIANS.

Legal Status of Claimants to Rights in Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes.

The Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship court, created in the summer of 1902, to pass upon the rights of court claimants to citizenship in those nations, and which has been in session since October of that year, has rendered its first final decision on the merits of the cases before them. The court holds, according to the Kansas City Journal, that an intermarried citizen could not marry out of the tribe. The Choctaw council passed a law that when a man, on the death of his Indian wife, married a white woman he forfeited the rights of citizenship. The citizenship court holds that this would violate the treaty of 1856, something the Choctaw council would object to. The court has not yet admitted any white children of such marriages, though 300 are seeking admission. Nor has the court admitted any of the claimants who seek admission on the claim of possessing Indian blood, three cases, involving 40 persons, having been rejected. Eight intermarried citizens have been admitted.

Some British Estates.

During the last year 63,319 estates, representing a capital of £270,473,307, were admitted to probate in the United Kingdom, says the London Mail. Of these 32,265 had a capital value of £500 or less, 9,767 of between £1,000 and £10,000; 2,112 of between £10,000 and £25,000; 1,337 of between £25,000 and £100,000, and 230 of more than £100,000. It is estimated that there are probably 100 persons in the United Kingdom who have at their own absolute disposal £5,000,000 each, and about 400 others have between £2,500,000 and £5,000,000. The largest estate of the year was that of Samuel Lewis, the notorious money lender, which was valued at £2,572,558. The next biggest was that of Col. Harry McCalmont, which was sworn in at £2,000,000.

An International Affair.

In the large power plant installed in the Mysore country, in southern India, the timber came from Australia, the insulators from Italy, the hydraulic plant from Switzerland, the penstock pipes from Scotland and the entire electric plant from America.

SAW A BURNING MOUNTAIN

Landslide from Top of Hill Made Shale Red Hot—Smoke Issued from Ground.

A party of geologists recently made an interesting find in the Arbuckle mountains. They struck, says the Kansas City Journal, a small creek in the mountains, followed down its course and came finally to a place where they saw some smoke issuing from the foot of a tree near the creek bed, and from a streak running up the side of a hill. "When the party came opposite the place they saw that the smoke was issuing from the ground. Upon careful investigation the following was found: There had been a landslide from the top of the hill, which was here like a cliff, and ran up 300 feet or more. The cliff was composed of a shale rock, dark, short-lime substance. In falling this had lodged below and piled against the side of the cliff, while the outer edge ran out to the edge of the creek. The distance from the cliff side to the creek bed was nearly 100 yards. An enormous quantity of this shale had by a slide been placed in the position described. From the foot of the tree smoke issued from a crevice about two feet wide and running about 100 yards up the slope to the side of the cliff. Another small fork projected before it reached the cliff. The shale on top, whence the smoke and steam were issuing, was light in color. Upon digging down two feet or more the shale was found to be red hot. A pair of horses were struggling to haul a heavily laden sledge into one of the side streets crossing Westminster, says the Providence Journal. The animals worked hard, but it was no use; the sledge was firmly planted where there was no chance of movement. A shabbily dressed elderly man happened along. He watched the vain efforts of the poor animals two or three minutes. "Come, boys," he finally shouted, "let's help 'em out." Whereat half a dozen men who were passing and who heard the words instantly put their shoulders to the sledge and tried their best, with the aid of the horses, to start the outfit. But it did not budge. "Twenty more men wanted!" again shouted the elderly man. "Come on, you men," addressing his remarks to a group of male bystanders; "come on, 20 more of you, and give us a lift." And 20 did come, yes, more than 20, nearly twice that number. The result was satisfactory. One concerted effort of men and beast and the sledge was safely across the car tracks. In clear sailing once more.

Singular Case of Willmaking.

Recently a very singular case of willmaking came to light in an English court. A lady, possessed of considerable property, was paralyzed, so she sent for her solicitor to dispose of her estate. Bereft of speech, she was unable to give directions. The solicitor wrote down the various items on so many cards; then on other cards he wrote the names of the lady's family. That done, he "dealt" the cards. As he did so his client couped, properly with names, and he was able to draw up the will. It was declared good by the court.

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